

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

June 2, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT Administration Building Auditorium

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm by Acting Chairman David Litchliter.

Commission Members Present:

MEMA	Tom McAllister
MDOC	Chris Epps
Mississippi Chiefs of Police	Richard O'Bannon
Mississippi Sheriff's Association	James Newman
Safecities Initiative	Mark McCrerry
Mississippi Fire Chiefs' Association	Tom Lariviere
Mississippi Municipal League	Gene McGee
Supervisors Association	Joel Yelverton
Mississippi National Guard	Lee Smithson
Department of ITS	David Litchliter
Mississippi Department of Health	Brian Amy
Mississippi DPS	George Phillips
Mississippi Highway Patrol	Marvin Curtis
Mississippi Homeland Security	Ed Worthington
MDOT	Willie Huff
MDEQ	Charles Chisolm

Advisory Members Present:

Representative Clayton Smith	Senator Tom King
Representative Johnny Stringer	Senator Jack Gordon
Representative Percy Watson	
Representative Tyrone Ellis	

Acting Chairman David Litchliter called the meeting to order and asked that each member of the Commission and Advisory Board introduce themselves. After introductions, Senator King explained Senate Bill 2514 and reiterated the commitment made by the legislature to the Commission's efforts. Representative Tyrone Ellis discussed the bill and echoed Senator King's statement of need and support.

A discussion about the duties and responsibilities of the Commission was held. Senator King and Representative Ellis called attention to the legislation requiring the Commission to have authority over any wireless communication system enhancements, upgrades, designs or changes by any state or local governmental agency.

Acting Chairman Litchliter advised the Commission of the need to establish rules for conducting Commission meetings. Senator Jack Gordon made the motion to adopt *Roberts Rules of Order*, Joel Yelverton seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Acting Chairman Litchliter advised the Commission that a Technical Committee had been established by the State Interoperability Executive Committee in September 2004. He asked Willie Huff to brief the Commission on research efforts conducted by MDOT, MDPS, and ITS. Mr. Huff gave an overview of the information in the notebook provided to the Commission members regarding the research. Chief Huff advised the Commission that the Technical Committee was developing an RFP for a Statewide Radio System to be released as soon as work was complete.

Acting Chairman Litchliter called on Sheila Kearney from ITS to brief the commission on the status of the RFP. Ms. Kearny reported that the Technical Committee had been working on the draft RFP since December and where they stood in the process at present. The Commission was advised their input was welcome and that they could examine the proposed RFP draft after signing a confidentiality waiver. Members shared concerns about a time line and procedure for determining a solution to the communication needs.

A request was made for vendors to make presentations to the commission regarding present and long term plans for voice and data systems. It was also suggested that representatives from other companies, states with current communications systems and experts in the communications field be brought in to share their findings, their expertise, and their suggestions for solutions to our situation. Financing options were discussed which included, but were not limited to, the Commission earnestly seeking Federal Grants to off-set state funding.

Acting Chairman Litchliter advised the Commission that officers should be elected and opened the floor for nominations for Commission Chairman. Chris Epps nominated and Willie Huff seconded George Phillips as Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission Chairman. No other nomination was presented and Mr. Phillips received a unanimous vote.

Acting Chairman Litchliter opened the floor for nominations of Commission Vice-Chairman. Marvin Curtis nominated and Brian Amy seconded Chris Epps for the position. Richard O'Bannon nominated and Joel Yelverton seconded Willie Huff for the position. The candidates left the room during the vote. Chris Epps received 9 votes, and Willie Huff received 4 votes.

Before turning the gavel over to Chairman-elect Phillips, Mr. Litchliter explained that he was attempting to schedule some presentations for the next meeting. Chairman Phillips advised the Commission that this was a very important project and that each Commission member is encouraged to make this a top priority for their time.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00pm